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MINING.

# The Oasis

THE  
BEST WEEKLY  
NEWSPAPER  
IN ARIZONA.

SECOND SERIES,  
Vol. II, No. 8.

NOGALES, ARIZONA, SATURDAY, JANUARY 2, 1904.

Whole No. 555.

## WAYSIDE NOTES

The Old Church at Opedepe. A Very Interesting Edifice. A Rich Region. The "Providencia" "Maria" and "Sara" mines.

POZA STATION, Sonora,  
December 14th, 1903.

When I started from Tuape a week ago the mule showed a slight lameness. It was thought that perhaps she had suffered a slight sprain, and that with careful use the difficulty would disappear. But it continued to grow worse, and when I reached Opedepe Wednesday evening, the poor animal was quite lame. Thinking that a few days rest would bring her out all right I put the animal in the corral, and for the necessary trips through out the region which occupied several days, I had the use of another animal, kindly loaned by Mrs. Vasovillbaso.

Opedepe is an important point upon the San Miguel river about thirty miles eastward from Poza station, on the Sonora railway. Along the river both above and below, are a number of fine ranches, and from the surrounding mining regions the town derives a goodly trade.

Among the business houses there are those of M. Vasovillbaso, Julio Bonnaud, and Julio Araiza. There are several others but these three seem the most important.

As stated last week Mr. Vasovillbaso conducts an extensive mesal distillery and ships his product to all points in northern Sonora, and a considerable quantity goes to Arizona points.

Mr. Julio Bonnaud is a merchant well known in Nogales, Hermosillo, Guaymas and all along the line. The gentleman has lived in Sonora twenty years or more, and before coming here was one of the pioneers in the Harshaw region, near Nogales. Beside the store at Opedepe he has one at the Sultana mine, near Copete, and is about to establish a third at Saucedo, between the "Mina del Oro" and the "Amarillas," over in the Alameda region to the westward. He is also engaged in cattle raising, has a mesal distillery, and owns several good mining prospects.

Mr. Julio Araiza, who has one of the stores at Opedepe, also conducts a forwarding house at Poza station.

Opedepe is the site of one of the old Spanish churches, a quaint and curious structure which dates back 200 years or more. It was built of adobes, and is now in an advanced stage of decay, having apparently received no care. The walls were originally plastered over, and upon a great part of the front the original plaster coat yet remains. It is peculiarly marked, and the markings are a notable and curious feature. While the cement plaster was yet soft small bits of brick and smelter slag were set into the surface, and with the hardening of the substance they yet remain. Long lines of these settings, in series of three or four, cross each other at right angles, describ-

ing squares a couple of feet across. Of these squares are more than one hundred yet visible. Within the squares are traced figures, made in the same way as the right angled lines. Many of the figures are fanciful forms, but most of them are representations of men and women. The lowest series are evidently figures of warriors—men with spears. Some of the others represent men fighting, shooting at one another with bows and arrows, or thrusting with spears. In others of the squares were the figures of a man and woman dancing; one represented a woman balancing an olla upon her head; while two figures in another plaque resembled a couple of girls "skipping the rope."

Two old bells in the tower above show the year of their casting—1772—which was probably the year the church was built. The double doors are of heavy mesquite fantastically carved and showing the ravages of time. The structure is well worth study by the antiquarian.

Mr. A. L. Wylie, superintendent of the Providencia mine, came into Opedepe, accompanied by Mr. W. P. Rice of Chicago, who has been visiting at the mine. They were on their way to Poza, en route to Hermosillo. Mr. Wylie turned back to accompany me to the mine, while Mr. Rice went on to Poza.

After dinner Thursday Mr. Wylie and I started from Opedepe for the "Providencia" mine, a distance of fifteen miles to the eastward. The route from Opedepe led across the hills about a mile, down into a big wash, up which we travelled. The wash terminated in a deep and rocky cañon, which is cut down through porphyry walls the greater part of its length, although in places there are lime and granite, with occasionally an upthrust of trachyte. The route followed is a steady ascent. Finally, while it was not yet quite dark, we passed out of the head of the cañon into a rolling upland, at an altitude of about 6,000 feet, covered with a fine growth of oak timber in the midst of which is the camp. Back of and above the camp is a loftier ridge, in which, about half a mile away, are the mines.

At the camp we found Mr. Joe Berry, an old timer in Sonora, who is mine foreman; Mr. D. G. Carroway, a well known millman and miner, who has valuable interests in the vicinity; and Mr. Paul Wylie from St. Louis, a nephew of my companion the superintendent.

They were just about to seat themselves at the supper table, and with appetites whetted by our ride we aided them in the complete demolition of a fine pigeon pie, the handiwork of Mr. Carroway who shot the pigeons and made the pie. Mr. Carroway appears to have

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### For Sale.

A complete copper smelting plant. For particulars and specifications, address "Smelter," P. O. Box 117, Tucson, Arizona. tf.

## NOGALES NOTES.

Interesting Items Gathered Around the Line Cities.

Mr. F. G. Wilson, of the Socorro mine, was a visitor at Nogales Sunday.

Sunday evening Major Fred Herrera went to the Altar district to overlook development work upon his mine.

Sunday the Brady-Levin Commission Company crossed into Sonora three carloads of fine milch cows, destined to Hermosillo to fill orders.

Last Saturday Customs Inspector George Jones was stricken with paralysis, and has been since confined to his bed. He is speechless, and partly incapable of motion.

J. F. Trainor, who is connected with the Sonora Railway at Santa Ana, was at Nogales Tuesday, returning to Sonora from a several weeks visit at San Francisco.

Sunday evening Mr. N. J. Smith, of the Banco de Sonora, and Bert Monteverde of the Cantina Central at Hermosillo, were at Nogales returning home from a visit at El Paso.

Doctor Court from Minneapolis, Minnesota, who is interested in the Maravilla mines, in the San Antonio Pass, twenty miles south-east from Nogales, was a visitor at Nogales Sunday.

Mr. Carl C. Wolff, who has been in a Tucson hospital for several weeks, has returned home greatly benefitted by the treatment received and has nearly recovered his former health.

Miss May Paisley has been visiting at Nogales this week, the guest of Mrs. Dr. N. K. Noon. Miss Paisley is in charge of the American school at La Colorado and will return south on tonight's Sonora train.

Monday evening, Mr. Al M. Conard, the well known Sonora mining man who was married here a few weeks ago, returned from San Francisco where he had been on his wedding trip. He will remain here for a few days on mining business.

The Southwestern Commercial Company have been having some alterations to the front of their store made this week. The present entrances on each side of the store will be transformed into handsome show windows and there will be one wide double door entrance in the center.

Last Saturday Mr. T. D. Casanega, of Calabasas, was at Nogales somewhat the worse from a battle with a vicious hog, which attacked him the preceeding Wednesday. The ferocious beast attacked him, and Tom fought it with a pitchfork, finally succeeding in subduing the animal. In the fight the beast bit Tom's arm and leg severely, and tore the clothing half off from him. The wounded man was out of danger, and by this time is quite recovered.

## THE MARINA MINE

An "Antigua" Mining Property of Great Merit in the Ures District of Sonora, Now Owned by Well Known Nogales Gentlemen.

In the Ures District, on the west side of and not more than half a mile away from the San Miguel river, about three miles south from the town of Opedepe, is situated the "Marina" mine, which is owned by Captain L. W. Mix, A. L. Peck and F. Saldamando, three well and widely known residents of Nogales. The property is *antigua*, as shown by extensive workings from which there are records of shipment of a great deal of rich silver ore.

Recently THE OASIS editor has made a careful examination of the mine, and presents the following description thereof.

### FORMATION

The region is one of metamorphic rocks, granites, gneiss and schists predominating, with some limestone, and an occasional intrusion of eruptive rocks, such as trachyte and basalt. In the immediate vicinity of the mine the country rock is a chloritic granite porphyry. Across a high hill there is traced a wide ledge varying from eight to twenty feet, and is a mixture of quartz, chlorite, etc., carrying chlorides and bromides of silver, ruby silver, and native silver in masses.

The ores of ruby and native silver run very high in values—as high as 2,000 ounces per ton and upward. The bromides and chlorides are also very rich. The ledge strikes from northeast to southwest, and inclines toward the southeast at an angle of about sixty-five degrees. The

### ANTIGUO WORKS

consist of an inclined shaft going down upon the ledge to a depth of 185 feet, and three shorter ones connected with the main shaft. From the levels have been extracted large quantities of high grade ore, and there is yet very rich ore in the bottom of the shaft above the water line. To preserve this ore the ladders have been drawn and the shaft allowed to fill with water to within 150 feet of the top.

Assays from samples taken from the mine and made by Mr. Charles Taylor of Nogales, run

150 feet down—silver	149	oz	per	ton
No. 1 Crosscut	104	"	"	"
No. 2 "	152	"	"	"
No. 4 "	74	"	"	"
No. 6 "	214	"	"	"
General Sample	148	"	"	"

Continued on page 2.

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